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Agenda item 19 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/438/Add.1)*]

68/210. Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 65/152 of 20 December 2010, 66/197 of 22 December 2011 and 66/288 of 27 July 2012, as well as its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

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Plan of Implementation),[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[11] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[12]

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),[13]

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[14] the Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[15] the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[16] and the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[17]

Reaffirming the commitment to implement Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming also other internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields since 1992, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

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[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution S-21/2, annex.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[12] Resolution 68/6.

[13] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[14] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[15] Resolution S-22/2, annex.

[16] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[17] Resolution 65/2.

Recognizing that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[18]

Reaffirming the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development,

Recalling the decision of the Economic and Social Council to abolish the Commission on Sustainable Development with effect from the conclusion of its twentieth and last session, held on 20 September 2013,[19]

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] and urges its speedy implementation;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[20]

3. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[21] and of the report of the Secretary-General on intergenerational solidarity and the needs of future generations;[22]

4. *Recalls* the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its

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[18] Resolution 55/2.

[19] Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/19.

[20] A/68/321.

[21] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

[22] A/68/322.

mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizes its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,[23] requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, from extrabudgetary resources, and invites Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the funding of the activities of the Decade;

6. *Welcomes* the decision contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to convene, in 2014, a third international conference on small island developing States, and in this regard renews its encouragement to the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support to ensure the success of the conference and its preparatory process;

7. *Reaffirms* its resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, welcomes the inaugural meeting of the Forum, held under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013, and takes note of the summary of the meeting in the note by the President of the General Assembly;[24]

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the Assembly and with the Bureau of the Council to organize the activities of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and encourages broad consultations on the organization of the meeting of the Forum under the auspices of the Council in 2014;

9. *Welcomes* the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[12] and acknowledges with appreciation the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that are now under way, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism, and urges these processes to complete their work in a comprehensive, balanced and expeditious manner by September 2014;

10. *Stresses* the need for synergy, coherence and mutual support among all these processes and other processes that are also relevant for the post-2015 development agenda;

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[23] A/68/309.

[24] A/68/588.

11. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies[25] and on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries,[26] welcomes the workshops at which these issues were discussed and takes note of their summaries,[27] decides in this regard to hold a series of four one-day structured dialogues, supported by the United Nations system and enabling the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, universities and research institutions, the private sector and civil society, to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by identifying and addressing, where appropriate, fragmentation, synergies, areas of duplication and opportunities for cooperation between existing mechanisms and processes, thus improving overall coherence and enhancing interlinkages, identifying and addressing gaps throughout the full technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, transfer and diffusion, fostering innovation and promoting an enabling environment at all levels, while respecting the mandates of existing institutions, frameworks and processes, and also decides that the dialogues will result in a summary of the discussions and recommendations emerging therefrom, including on the possible modalities and organization of such a mechanism, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and for consideration and appropriate action by the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, with the aim of reaching a conclusion in this regard;

12. *Welcomes* the establishment of the 10-member board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, recalls the decision that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development may provide recommendations to the board and the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking into account their reports,[28] also recalls paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/203, including its decision to review the arrangement to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and the secretariat as elaborated in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, and in this regard decides to review the ad interim arrangement at its sixty-ninth session, after the meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2014;

13. *Recalls* its decision that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development shall strengthen the science-policy interface by examining documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments, enhancing evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contributing to the strengthening of ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries, and also recalls its request that the Forum

[25] A/67/348 and A/68/310.

[26] A/68/217.

[27] Available from the United Nations sustainable development knowledge platform website.

[28] See resolution 67/290.

consider, in 2014, the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, based on a proposal by the Secretary-General, reflecting the views and recommendations of Member States and relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee for Development Policy;[28]

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system,[29] reiterates the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development".

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013

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[29] A/68/79-E/2013/69.